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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1237
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 000234

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DEPT FOR S/ES, AF/FO, AF/RSA, AND AF/SPG
DEPT PLS PASS USAID FOR AFR/SUDAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/30/2016

TAGS: [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [CD](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: DETAILS EMERGE ON ARMANKUL INCIDENT IN DARFUR

Classified By: P/E Chief E. Whitaker, Reason: Section 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (U) According to Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) military spokesman General Abbas Abdelrahman Khalifa, artillery shelling originating within Chad hit the area of Armankul for approximately one hour and one-half on the morning of January [¶28.](#) The location, about 20 miles northwest of the West Darfur state capital of El Geneina, is approximately 6 miles from the Chadian border. The SAF states that it returned the artillery fire.

[¶2.](#) (C) AU military observers, however, state that an unknown number of personnel on foot attacked SAF positions in the Abu Surug district, wherein Armankul is located. The attack was repulsed without SAF casualties, with two attackers killed in action. A different AU source indicated that the attack resulted in two attackers dead and three SAF troops wounded. The AU indicated that a battalion-sized element conducted the attack, approaching from the west.

[¶3.](#) (C) Comment: this report differs considerably from the National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD) claim of 78 SAF troops killed and 17 others captured in the attack. The NMRD is not a party to the Darfur peace talks in Abuja, and does not respect the ceasefire signed between other rebel groups and the government signed in 2004.
HUME